



10/525398

PCT/GB 2003 / 0 0 3 4 5 0
Rec'd PTO 23 FEB 2005

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

GB03/03450

The Patent Office

Concept House

Cardiff Road

Newport

South Wales

NP10 8QQ

09 SEP 2003

PCT

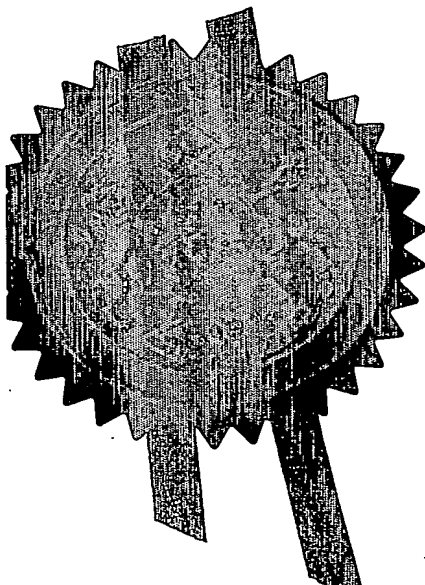
**PRIORITY
DOCUMENT**SUBMITTED OR TRANSMITTED IN
COMPLIANCE WITH RULE 17.1(a) OR (b)

I, the undersigned, being an officer duly authorised in accordance with Section 74(1) and (4) of the Deregulation & Contracting Out Act 1994, to sign and issue certificates on behalf of the Comptroller-General, hereby certify that annexed hereto is a true copy of the documents as originally filed in connection with the patent application identified therein.

In accordance with the Patents (Companies Re-registration) Rules 1982, if a company named in this certificate and any accompanying documents has re-registered under the Companies Act 1980 with the same name as that with which it was registered immediately before re-registration save for the substitution as, or inclusion as, the last part of the name of the words "public limited company" or their equivalents in Welsh, references to the name of the company in this certificate and any accompanying documents shall be treated as references to the name with which it is so re-registered.

In accordance with the rules, the words "public limited company" may be replaced by p.l.c., plc, P.L.C. or PLC.

Re-registration under the Companies Act does not constitute a new legal entity but merely subjects the company to certain additional company law rules.

Signed *He Behen*

Dated 29 August 2003

An Executive Agency of the Department of Trade and Industry

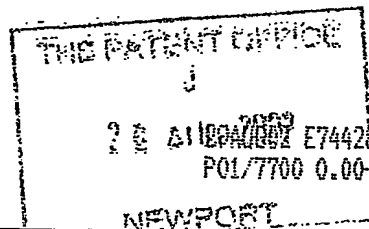
BEST AVAILABLE COPY

The Patent Office

1/77

Request for grant of a patent

See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help you fill in this form)



The Patent Office

Cardiff Road
Newport
Gwent NP9 1RH

Your reference

11034P3 GB/AK

Patent application
(The

0219996.6

29 AUG 2002

Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)

Reckitt Benckiser Inc
1655 Valley Road
Wayne
New Jersey 07474
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

07852247001

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

Delaware

Title of the invention

Improvements In and To Dispensing Devices

Name of your agent (if you have one)

John Crawford McKnight
Reckitt Benckiser plc
Group Patents Department
Dansom Lane
HULL
HU8 7DS
UNITED KINGDOM

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

07799521001

If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number

Country

Priority application number
(if you know it)

Date of filing
(day / month / year)

If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application
(day / month / year)

Date of filing
(day / month / year)

Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:

Yes

- a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
 - b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
 - c) any named applicant is a corporate body.
- See note (d))

Patents Form 1/77

Enter the number of sheets for any of the following items you are filing with this form.
Do not count copies of the same document

Continuation sheets of this form

Description	4
Claim(s)	1
Abstract	1
Drawing(s)	5

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents	
Translations of priority documents	
Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)	
Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77)	One
Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77)	One
Any other documents (please specify)	FS2

11. I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature

Date

John C McKnight
John C McKnight

23 August 2002

12. Name and daytime telephone number of Person to contact in the United Kingdom

John C McKnight (01482) 583719

Warning
After an application for a patent has been filed, the Comptroller of the Patent Office will consider whether publication or communication of the invention should be prohibited or restricted under Section 22 of the Patents Act 1977. You will be informed if it is necessary to prohibit or restrict your invention in this way. Furthermore, if you live in the United Kingdom, Section 23 of the Patents Act 1977 stops you from applying for a patent abroad without first getting written permission from the Patent Office unless an application has been filed at least 6 weeks beforehand in the United Kingdom for a patent for the same invention and either no direction prohibiting publication or communication has been given, or any such direction has been revoked.

Notes

- If you need help to fill in this form or you have any questions, please contact the Patent Office on 0645 500505.
- Write your answers in capital letters using black ink or you may type them.
- If there is not enough space for all the relevant details on any part of this form, please continue on a separate sheet of paper and write "see continuation sheet" in the relevant part(s). Any continuation sheet should be attached to this form.
- If you have answered 'Yes' Patents Form 7/77 will need to be filed.
- Once you have filled in the form you must remember to sign and date it.
- For details of the fee and ways to pay please contact the Patents Office.

IMPROVEMENTS IN AND TO DISPENSING DEVICES

5

This invention relates to an actuator button for use on an aerosol spray container to deliver an atomized spray of liquid such as an air freshener and to the dies by which such an actuator button is made.

10

Aerosol actuator buttons are well known in the art and are used to atomize a pressurized liquid into a spray which can be delivered into a room or to coat an object with the atomized spray. A variety of different types and examples of actuator buttons are disclosed in United States Patent No. 4,805,839 to S. C. Johnson & Son, Inc. The actuator button disclosed in United States

15 Patent No. 4,805,839 diverts its spray away from the user by having an asymmetrical conical depression in the bottom of the button where the configuration of the conical depression causes the liquid escaping from the orifice to be tilted away from the central long axis of the cavity which receives the free end of an aerosol valve so that the central long axis of the aerosol spray pattern is tilted away from the central long axis of the cavity at a preselected angle.

20

Such an arrangement and tilting of the aerosol spray pattern can have a negative effect on the delivery and quality of aerosol product into the area which is being treated by the aerosol. The delivery and quality of aerosol product is dependent upon the atomization of the liquid which is being delivered as an aerosol through the actuator. The finer the particle size of atomization,

25 the longer the fragrance, or other material to be delivered, will stay in the room atmosphere as well as providing for a larger area of coverage due to the diffusion of the fragrance, or other material, out of the particles.

30

With that background, the present invention provides for an actuator button which provides better atomization of liquid into the air. In addition, with the spray being dispensed along the central long axis, the user will have better control over dispensing the aerosol without having to remember the angle at which the actuator button of United States Patent No. 4,805,839 is positioned.

The present invention provides an overcap for an aerosol container comprising a wall capable of being attached to the container, a button having an actuating means and a cavity in the bottom thereof adapted to sealingly receive the free end of an aerosol valve stem having a hollow bore which is in flow communication with an orifice in the top of said body for releasing a pressurized liquid to be atomized, said orifice being coaxial with the central long axis of said cavity and bore, and a hinge attaching the button to the wall, such that the configuration of the hinge causes the liquid escaping from the orifice to be dispensed along the central long axis of the cavity as it is atomized into an aerosol spray pattern. The hinge can be a torsion hinge.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a set of dies for molding the overcap for aerosol containers of the present invention.

The present invention thus further provides, in combination, a set of dies for producing an overcap having an actuating means and a cavity in the bottom thereof adapted to sealingly receive the free end of an aerosol valve stem having a hollow bore which is in flow communication with an orifice in the top of said body for releasing a pressurized liquid to be atomized, said orifice being coaxial with the central long axis of said cavity and bore causes the liquid escaping from the orifice to be dispensed along the central long axis of the cavity as it is atomized into an aerosol spray pattern and the central long axis of said aerosol spray pattern, characterized by:

A. a male die for forming at least the cavity portion of the button and having a first upper surface, coaxial with the central long axis of the cavity, for forming the portion of the cavity closest to said orifice and

B. at least one other die for forming the remainder of said button, including said orifice, wherein any one of such dies has a cylindrical extension which is coaxial with the central long axis of said cavity and having a flat surface for contact with the first surface of said male die to form said orifice when the dies are brought together coaxial with the central long axis of the first upper surface of the male die and the flat surface of said other die to form said button, said orifice being coaxial with respect to said central long axis of the die forming the cavity.

The dies can be withdrawn along the line which is coaxial with the central long axis of the button being molded and thereby permit more buttons to be molded per area of mold plate than is the

case when a side pin is used to create an orifice with respect to the central long axis of the button. The dies can be made of conventional metals used in molding dies such as H13 and S7 type steels, oil-hardened tool steels, air-hardened tool steels, aluminum and the like.

5 The following is a brief description of the drawings showing an embodiment of the present invention:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of an overcap taken from the top rear.

Fig. 2 is a bottom plan view of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the overcap taken from the bottom.

10 Fig. 4 is a cross-sectional view of the overcap of Fig. 2, taken along section lines A-A.

Fig. 5 is a cross-sectional view of the overcap of Fig. 2, taken along section lines B-B.

Referring to the drawings, Figs. 1 and 2 show one embodiment of the aerosol actuator button of the present invention. Overcap 2 is can be fixed on a conventional pressurized aerosol
 15 container (not shown). Overcap 2 is composed of a wall 4 and aerosol actuator button 6 which is joined to wall 4 by means of a plastic hinging strip 8. Button 6 contains an actuating means in the form of a depressed finger pad 10 having a number of raised ridges 12. Button 6 also contains an orifice 14 where aerosolized fluid is discharged. Also shown is tamper evident tab 16, which is optional, which connects button 6 to inside rim 15 of wall 4 during manufacture of
 20 the overcap. After the first use, tab 16 is no longer connected to rim 15 and the user can then tell if the overcap has been used.

Fig. 3 shows a perspective view of cap 2 from the bottom. Tubular extension 18 has cavity 20 which runs through the entire extension 18 and is in fluid communication with orifice 14. At its
 25 lower end, cavity 20 has a wider portion 26 (shown in Figs. 4 and 5) which sealingly engages the outside of a conventional tubular valve stem (the valve stem which is part of a valve assembly connected to a pressurized can; not shown). The valve stem has a central hollow bore which is in flow communication with cavity 20 and the pressurized liquid in the container. Orifice 14, cavity 20, and the bore hole of the valve stem are all co-axial with the central long
 30 axis 30 of button 6.

Thus in practice, pressurized liquid passes through the hollow valve stem bore when finger pad 10 is depressed and travels under pressure through cavity 20 and through orifice 14 where it

contacts the atmosphere and the pressurized liquid is then aerosolized into fine droplets in the atmosphere.

5 Actuator buttons of the present invention can therefore be used in any application where an aerosol is used to deliver a useful liquid composition, such as in air freshener delivery containers, carpet and other fabric care applications, and insecticide or germicide dispensing in the form of aerosol sprays. Any of the commonly used plastic materials for aerosol buttons and overcaps such as high density polyethylene as well as polypropylene can be employed. Other
10 modifications and variations of the buttons and dies of the present invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the examination of the above specification and drawings. Thus, other variations of the spray actuator button and dies for making the same may be made which fall within the scope of the appended claims, even though such variations were not specifically discussed above.

15

Claims:

1. An overcap for an aerosol container comprising a wall capable of being attached to the
5 container, a button having an actuating means and a cavity in the bottom thereof adapted to
sealingly receive the free end of an aerosol valve stem having a hollow bore which is in flow
communication with an orifice in the top of said body for releasing a pressurized liquid to be
atomized, said orifice being coaxial with the central long axis of said cavity and bore, and a
10 hinge attaching the button to the wall, such that the configuration of the hinge causes the liquid
escaping from the orifice to be dispensed along the central long axis of the cavity as it is
atomized into an aerosol spray pattern.
2. The overcap of claim 1 wherein the hinge is a torsion hinge.
- 15 3. An overcap for an aerosol container comprising a wall capable of being attached to the
container, a button having an actuating means and a cavity in the bottom thereof adapted to
sealingly receive the free end of an aerosol valve stem having a hollow bore which is in flow
communication with an orifice in the top of said body for releasing a pressurized liquid to be
atomized, said orifice being coaxial with the central long axis of said cavity and bore, and a
20 torsion hinge attaching the button to the wall, such that the configuration of the torsion hinge
causes the liquid escaping from the orifice to be dispensed along the central long axis of the
cavity as it is atomized into an aerosol spray pattern.

Abstract

IMPROVEMENTS IN AND TO DISPENSING DEVICES

- 5 . Disclosed is an aerosol actuator button for delivering a liquid from a pressurized aerosol container wherein the dispensed liquid is along the central long axis of the actuator button and container.

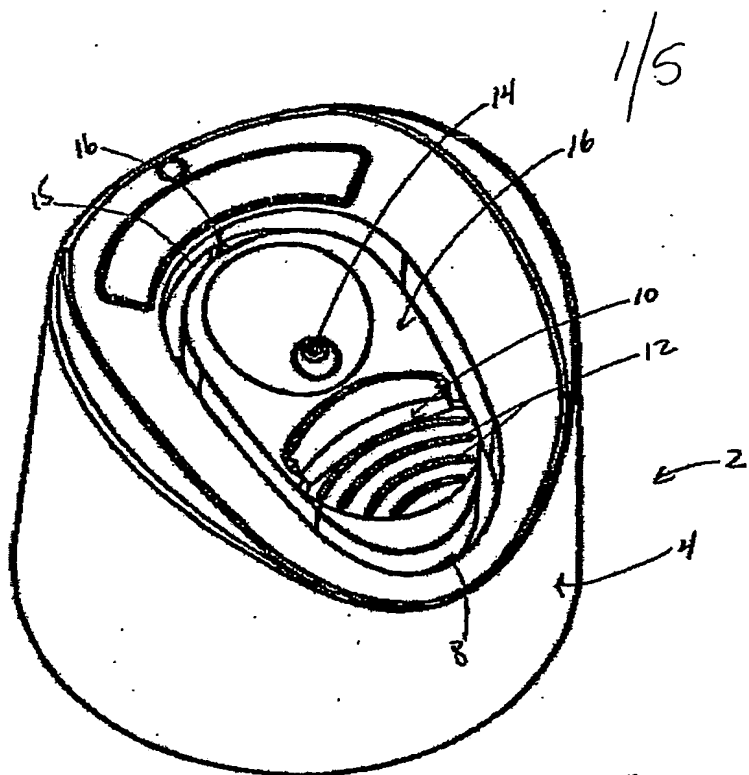


FIG. 1

2/5

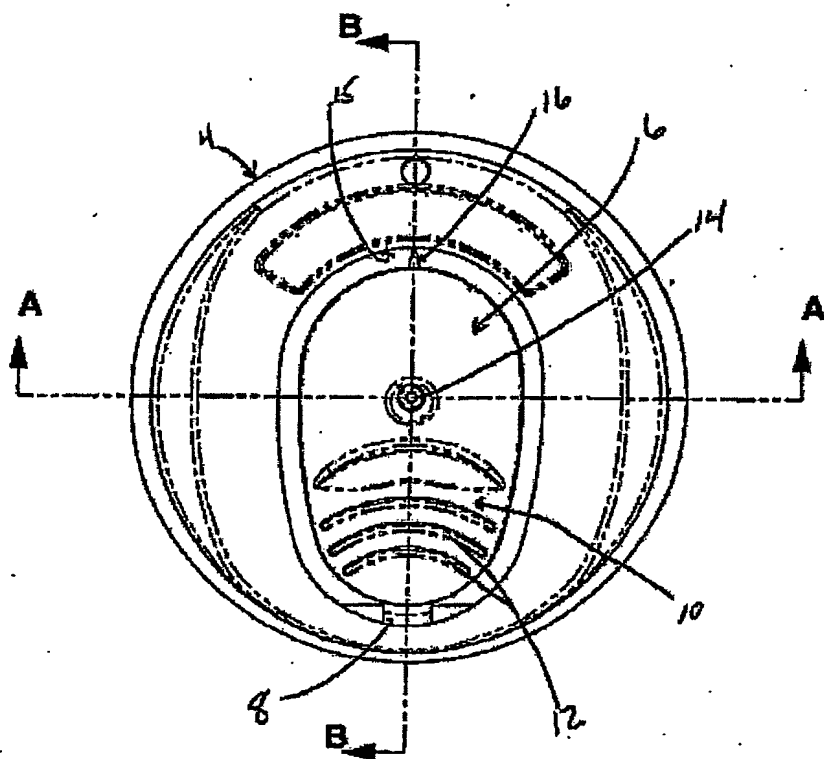


FIG. 2

3/5

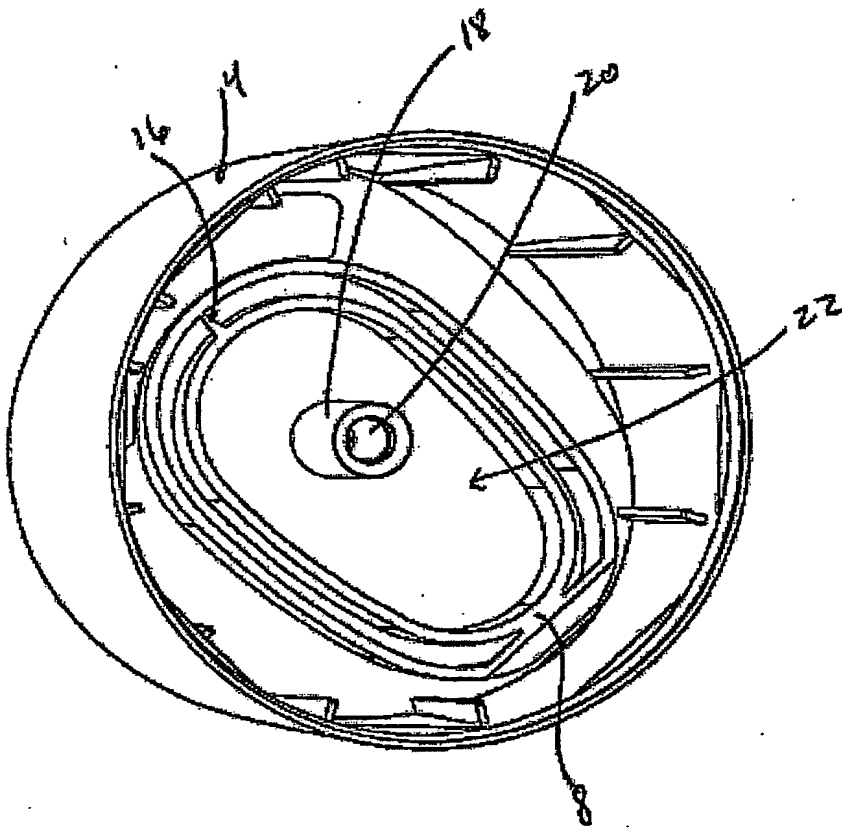


FIG 3

4/6

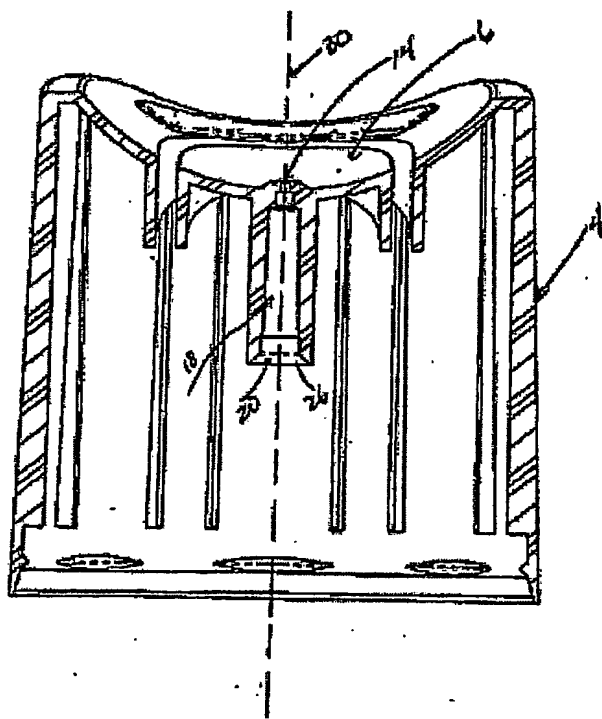
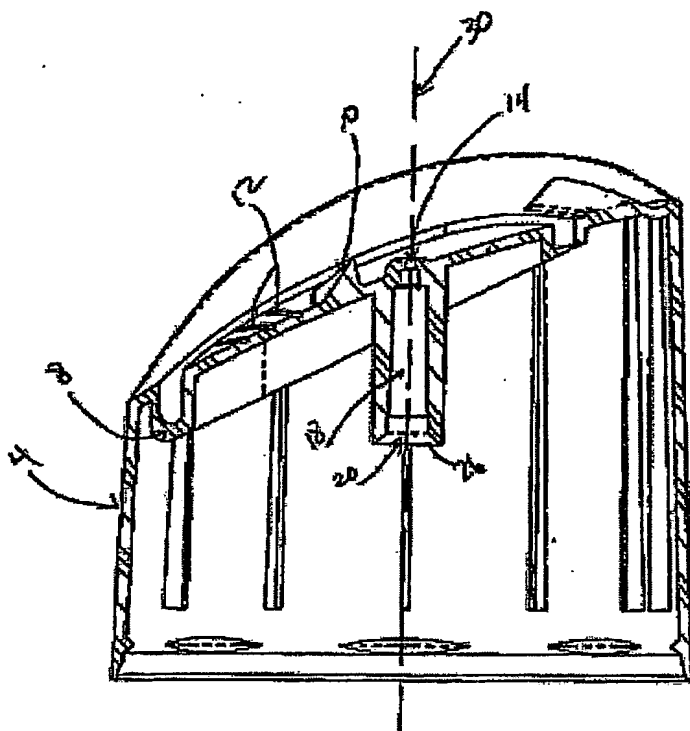


FIG. 4

5/5



F705

THE PATENT OFFICE
29 April 2003
Patent No. 2233

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- ☐ BLACK BORDERS
- ☐ IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- ☐ FADED TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☐ BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☐ SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- ☐ COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS
- ☐ GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS
- ☒ LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
- ☐ REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY
- ☐ OTHER: _____

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.